COVID-19 Update

Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during COVID-19 Outbreaks

March 15, 2020, 1:00 pm

Sent by listserv to SNP Sponsors and SFSP Sponsors and posted at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What’s New and www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, What’s New

Food insecurity for students who rely on school meals is a major concern during extended school closures. KSDE has received approval from USDA for alternate meal service flexibility in the case of unanticipated school closures ordered by local, county or state health officials due to COVID-19. The flexibilities allow schools and community organizations to serve children meals through the USDA Summer Meals Program options at approved sites and to waive the congregate feeding requirement.

If you would like to serve meals during a school closure contact Cheryl Johnson (csjohnson@ksde.org), Jill Ladd (jladd@ksde.org) or Julie Henry (jhenry@ksde.org) or call 785-296-2276 for more information to start the process by completing the application for the waiver.

Note: The waiver application must be in approved status prior to serving meals. If your school has closed due to COVID-19 and you want to start serving meals on Monday 3/16, please call Cheryl at 785-224-8479 as soon as possible.

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness team is committed to keeping you informed by providing updated information and USDA guidance to local sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs to determine the best way possible to serve meals to children during unanticipated school closures due to COVID-19. This email is labeled Child Nutrition Programs & COVID-19 Update #2 with a date and time sent. Since this is an evolving situation with frequently updated information, additional updates are expected and will be date and time labeled so you can easily determine the most recent guidance. All updates regarding COVID-19 will be posted at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What’s New and www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Programs, What’s New.

A COVID-19 Update for Child Nutrition Program Sponsors interested in feeding children in the event school is closed has been scheduled for Monday morning March 16th at 11:00 am. Join the discussion at https://ksde.zoom.us/j/836324095. This is the first opportunity to share information and answer questions on this topic but will not be our last. At a minimum, we anticipate providing an update at least each Monday at 11:00 a.m. to answer questions as you have them. Please know that you can contact our office at any time with questions.

By remembering the purpose of Child Nutrition Programs, the children that the programs serve and why, we will all get through this very challenging time together. KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness staff are available now and at any time to work with you to get waivers and meals sites approved.

We appreciate the work our local Administrators, Child Nutrition Program Directors and their staff are doing to provide meal options to Kansas children.

Cheryl, Jill and Julie
For more information, contact:

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